

May 28, 2004

Monday, May 31st is Memorial Day. This is the day we have set aside to honor those brave men and women who have given their lives to protect us on the battlefield. This year, with thousands of our fellow citizens in harms way, I want to take a moment to recognize their bravery and thank them for their service. To see my statement on Memorial Day, please visit by clicking [here](#).

With the opening of the World War II Memorial on the National Mall, we are reminded yet again of the sacrifices our Veterans have paid. This new Memorial will be another must-visit destination in Washington, and I am proud that it finally is complete. Please visit my [World War II Memorial page](#) and view my [press release](#) to learn more about the Memorial.

While I have been fighting for our Veterans who are returning from battle to ensure they receive every benefit they deserve, we also must do more to guarantee their loved ones have easy access to National Cemeteries in New Mexico once they have passed. I recently spoke personally with Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Anthony Principi, about the need to change the regulations regarding how locations are determined for new National Cemeteries. Unfortunately, a rural state like New Mexico currently is disadvantaged because of our population. I have led a bipartisan effort in the House to change the guidelines and commit to keep working on this issue. For more information, please visit my website by clicking [here](#).